**Eastside United Church Leadership Team**

**Minutes of the May 29, 2024 Meeting**

**Attendees:** Janet Bjorndahl (Chair), Cathie Henderson, Leanne Sudom, Ron Brandow, Russell Mitchell-Walker, Bonny Manz, Teresa Strachan, Sam and Delia Baidoo

**Regrets:** Sarah Tkachuk, Jim Fallows, Doug Scheurwater

| **Agenda**  **#** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
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| **1.** | **Call to Order – Janet**  Called to order at 6:58 |  |
| **2.** | **Opening Devotion/Prayer - Russell**  Reading from Brian McLaren’s book, “Life and Doom”; prayer |  |
| **3.** | **Acceptance of the Agenda**  *Moved by Leanne, 2nd by Cathie. Approved.* |  |
| **4.** | **Disclosure of any Conflict of Interest**  Standing item to remind us of our responsibility under the United Church’s [Conflict of Interest Policy](https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/conflict-of-interest-policy.pdf#:~:text=The%20purpose%20of%20this%20policy%20is%20to%20give,in%20the%20best%20interests%20of%20the%20United%20Church.) |  |
| **5.** | **Minutes of the Apr 17, 2024, Leadership Team meeting**  **Minutes of the May 21, 2024, Leadership Team meeting**  *One amendment to April’s minutes. April’s amended and May’s minutes moved for acceptance by Ron Brandow. 2nd by Teresa. Approved.*  **Ratification of the recommendation at the May 21, 2024, LT meeting**  *Moved by Leanne, 2nd by Teresa. Approved* |  |
| **6.** | **Business arising from the Minutes**  **6.1 Collaboration with area United Churches - Janet**  Update: Eastside, Heritage, and St. Andrews have approved the agreement.   * St. James has their meeting Jun 9 * Regina Beach has their meeting Jun 18 * Also see Chair report following minutes   Appointment of members and alternate(s) for the Joint Steering Committee.   * Chair of LT or designee – Janet; Leanne alternate * A financial rep – Janet and Jim *(if willing)* * An M&P rep – will be advised after next M&P meeting * Alternate(s) * Plus our member/alternate on the Joint Worship Committee   **6.2 Mount Sinai update – Russell and Bonny**   * Invoices were done and two cheques have been received. | Janet to follow up with Jim re. rep.  Someone from M&P will let LT know appointee |
| **7.** | **New Business**  **7.1 Stewardship Approach**   * LT will be responsible for doing stewardship, perhaps with a sub-committee * Smaller, lower key campaign will be done. * A Gratitude Dinner will be held. * Stewardship letters will be done and sent out to everyone in October. * No follow up will be done, unless deemed necessary.   **7.2 Funding Outreach**   * Some funding provided for regular Outreach (ICF) * Other appeals are done over the year for food or funds * Consideration to be done on having an appeal for a specific purpose, but advise donors any extra money donated will be put into a general outreach fund * The Collaboration want to form an Outreach Committee so would be good if we were able to provide some funding for that | Russell will draft letters with Bonny’s assistance |
| **8.** | **Reports**  **8.1 Minister**   * Newo-Yotina Friendship Centre and the Queen City Pharmacy have asked if LSC would be able to provide some door prizes, not necessarily new items, and perhaps funds to assist with Indigenous Day June 21st. Could also have an information booth. * See Russell’s report at end of minutes for rest of report   **8.2 M&P – Cathie**   * Russell’s Job Description has been updated * Becca no longer available to attend the Regional Conference; registration and cheque were cancelled   **8.3 Region – Ron**   * April and May meetings were held. * A number of policies and statements being worked on (ie. Peace in the Middle East) and preparations for the AGM * Discussion on holding some workshops * Quite a high turnover on Regional Executive this year * Ron looking forward to attending conference – good speakers and a number of proposals being brought forward   **8.4 Finance**   * No report   **8.5 Living Spirit Centre Council – Russell**   * Discussions being held with an LSC long-term renter to take over some offices upstairs and the music room downstairs   **8.6 Faith Formation – Leanne**   * Still needing a new House Leader for Dinah * A survey has been sent out on services provided during Russell’s sabbatical and the collaboration * June 16th Heritage and St. Andrews will be joining our service * June 23rd will be “Taco Sunday” as a wrap up for the year. * Volunteer laypeople are needed for those Sundays no minister or for beginning the service should Russell be leading services at two churches * July ES will be doing LSC services and in August it will be BoL * Hazel Arbon has said she will be willing to lead or help with services   **8.7 Gratitude team – Teresa**   * Gratitude Team to provide a cake for “Taco Sunday”. * The team would appreciate having more members as “Thank You” cards being done continuously   **8.8 Congregational Care – Delia**   * Desperately need more members   **8.9 Climate Justice Committee – Bonny and Ron**   * The DIY Energy Audit has been started by Brian and Bonny and seems to be quite the task. They will continue with it, as available, and perhaps have others such as Doug help out with electrical, if needed * Decision regarding solar panels was taken to LSCC. It is hoped that a smaller array of panels can be done, saving some money to begin with, with the potential to add additional ones when additional funds available. The panels to be owned by LSC.   **8.10 Chair – Janet**   * Not as easy for our bookkeeper to review the books as not familiar with our church * Considering having a workshop for the bookkeeper and members of congregation who may be interested on how books are kept and Jim’s role in converting them to reports * Accountabilities need to be made clear to people responsible for funds and reports * Bonny to do invoicing for Russell’s travel and other expenses, in order to be reimbursed by St. James * Chart of Accounts to be reviewed and perhaps redone | Becca to send an appeal out. Bonny to check on tent  Timeframe: October/November |
| **9.** | **Forward Looking**   * Nothing |  |
| **10.** | **Next Meeting**  September 18, 2024 - Leanne chairing |  |
| **11.** | **Closing Prayer Russell** |  |
| **9.** | **Adjournment**  Cathie moved to adjourn at 8:26 |  |

**Eastside United Church**

**Leadership Team Minster’s Report**

Russell Mitchell-Walker

April 17, 2024

**Regina Cluster & Collaborative Ministry**

I met with the Cluster close to monthly while on sabbatical to plan the event that just happened this weekend which included a joint service that all city churches participated in except Lakeview. The event had about 45 people attend with good engagement with Jordan Cantwell and conversation about our WHY as a church and how we be church in Regina. We heard from Terry Page from Immanuel Anglican who shared how they assessed their buildings in the 5 to 1 process. There were also workshops on Growing Your Church, Growing Generosity, and Stewardship of Buildings’ Carbon Footprint. The worship gathered over 300 people including about 60 people in a mass choir from 6 churches.

The Collaborative Ministry is coming along well and has been a lot of work. We are working with St. James, Heritage, St. Andrews’ Lumsden, and Regina Beach (for once a month coverage). The plan is to follow the model that Heritage and St. Andrews’ has been doing, which is a minister preaching in person and providing a video of the sermon for the other congregation(s) that would have a lay led service. There are now three groups working and meeting: the whole group; a Worship planning group; and an Agreement group, working out the details of the Agreement. Janet Bjorndahl has done an incredible amount of work in all these groups and particularly in creating and rewriting the numerous drafts of the agreement (we are on draft 5). It has been a lot of work in general sometimes I have had three meetings within 7 days. We are aiming to have the Collaborative Ministry Agreement approved by the whole group May 7 and then go to each community of faith for congregational approval. The minister at Heritage has given her notice and will be finished at the end of the month, so Dexter vanDyke and I have developed a schedule, approved by the Worship Group, for coverage for the 4 communities of faith during May and June. Dexter is also leading worship for me when I am away next weekend.

**Parish Ministry/Outreach**

INI Café Live takes place this Friday with a Non-Inidgenous performer I have been trying to get for a long time. I had her lined up for last month (before I left on sabbatical) and ICF cancelled on me, so I am very glad she was able to do this month.

LSC Climate Justice Committee is hosting its third shared service and pot luck this Sunday with guest speaker Dale Hjertaas who will speak on ways we can mitigate climate change in our homes and yard and gardens. We are working toward getting the Wascana Solar Co-op to speak to the LSC Council about them doing the solar panels and we purchase shares(individually or as a congregation/community). We are also working toward doing a full energy audit of the building.

The Community Dinner had Bonnie Morton speak on guaranteed liveable income in March and Laura Stewart will be presenting Earth Day music she has created on Thursday.

**Pastoral Care**

There were a number of folk who had pastoral needs while I was away.  I am grateful to the Congregational Care Team for offering support to these folk, and Pastor Stewart for visiting when asked, while I was away. Over the last few weeks, two members had surgery, one was heart, two members lost sisters, and another member’s mother died.  Two members are living with cancer and treatments.

**Gratitude Team/Stewardship**

Gratitude Team is holding off on planning a stewardship campaign until the LT gives some direction for this planning. We have been focusing on Gratitude, providing thank yous and focusing on messages of generosity and the possibility of a Gratitude Dinner. We need more members, and have been asking people outside the Team to offer Minutes for Mission.

**Faith Formation**

Film and Faith was facilitated by Carlin Richards and Kacey(Lilac) Colibaba while I was off. Since back we have had one evening in March, with low attendance.  
Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Books continued to meet while I was on Sabbatical, finishing the book Do I Stay Christian by Brian McLaren and were able to end it with a session where Brian joined us online for Q&A. We are now reading **Braiding Sweetgrass** by Robin Wall Kimmerer Attendance is around 10.

Messy Church has continued once a month on the second Thursdays from 5:30-7:30. Attendance has been low as well.

Courageous Faith continues online and was led by Kacey(Lilac) while I was off, and since I’ve been back as I have had conflicts some of the Thursdays. There are 6 participants.

Faith Formation had a Games afternoon that went well though a small attendance

**Continuing Education & Wider Church**

I am going to Seattle for the annual Inhabit Conference of the Parish Collective where stories of being church in the neighbourhood are shared. I am volunteering to get free registration and accommodation during the conference, but it is in a different venue which means I needed to rent a car, and have accommodation on either end of the conference. With increased costs this has been higher costs than expected.

I have been invited to apply to a Diakonia Overcoming Violence Exchange (DOVE) in San Bonito, Texas Oct 14-19, to live and learn with migrants about immigration issues and challenges.

I continue to be consultant for the national church, working with workplace harassment, sexual abuse and pastoral misconduct, and ethical practices for minister.

**Sabbatical Houselessness Follow up**

I continue to co-chair the Warm Welcome Coalition that is working with the warming centres and providing food support for them. We have also moved to the wider agenda of ending houselessness and to this end are focusing on the upcoming elections and providing resources for people to engage with their candidates.

Eastside has not been able to provide food for the warming centre(s) but will be joining with Bread of Life to provide food on April 30 with making sandwiches on April 28.

Coming out of my work the Queen City Wellness Pharmacy, I have started a discussion group, twice a month called Food for Thought. This provides an opportunity for folk to bring questions about God, the Bible, the church, Jesus, etc for non judgemental conversation. We are looking for folk to provide food for 5-10 people and church members are welcome to attend as well.

**LSC/MAP**

We have spent significant time among staff discussing the challenges of managing Mt Sinai congregation .and the mess and damages we have found and are leaving. There are also concerns regarding their denomination not being supportive of LGBTQ folk or ordaining women. The LSC Council needs to meet with them to discuss not only these issues but raising their rent as they are paying old rates and are using space more than originally agreed upon. The Council will need to discern if this rental can continue.

Broadway considered a motion at their annual meeting to visit here on a Sunday to get a sense of what it would be like to worship here. It was tabled until the fall. If they came and Mt. Sinai is still here, Broadway would have priority.